LOCAL NEWS

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WALLY CONNORTON ... too glamorous | BILL SCOTT ... better discipline | ANTON ANDERSON ... not worried | ALEC RAWLINGS ... streamline studies | MAY BROOKER ... fewer frills | GARRY WILLIAMS ... longer school year | CECIL LEWIS ... overhaul needed | M. F. HUNTER ... better grounding

More Discipline, Less Frippery School Need?

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Public Poll Favors Stricter Attitudes

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If the average citizen were to appear before the royal commission on education Thursday in Victoria, what would he say?

"More discipline and less frippery," most likely.

That seemed to be more or less the average attitude yesterday among people asked by the Colonist what they would tell the royal commission.

Switchboard operator May Brooker, for instance, managed to answer between calls, "Back to the three Rs — and no frills!"

Automobile dealer Wally Connorton said schools were too something-or-other glamorous, and he would like "to see them get down to some sane construction" both in the schools and the schooling.

City clerk M. F. Hunter would like to see teachers given authority to control and discipline the students better, and, he said, more thorough instruction in the basic subjects should be given.

Longer school hours were suggested by butcher Garry Williams—and a longer school year, too. He said some of the long holidays could well be cut down.

Douglas Taylor, a student at S. J. Willis Junior High School, didn't agree with him.

An extra hour a day might be useful, he admitted, but it wouldn't be welcome: a five-hour school day, plus a couple of hours' homework, was enough.

Nor did Anton Anderson, operating a sewer-cleaning machine, agree with him. He hadn't studied the question, he said, but he didn't think school hours should be any longer.

"Education may be all right but I'd like to see the kids get the strap once in a while," said a service station attendant, Bill Scott. He said he didn't think discipline was all it might be.

Shoe shop proprietor Cecil Lewis thought there was "no question about it, there are too many frills." More time should be given to basic subjects, he maintained.

Norman W. Pike, 414 Durban, father of two school children, thinks "the present schol system is fine. I can't see many changes that are needed. There should be more technical training facilities though. Both my youngsters are happy in school and both are doing exceptionally well."

Mrs. Frank Jenvey, a member of Tillicum PTA and mother of two girls, denounces the junior high school system. "The girls grow up too quickly. They think they are older than they are. We were kids at 13. Now they try to act like they are 18 when they are 13. I would like to see a smart uniform for the girls and do away with the competitive spirit in dress. I am satisfied with the curriculum."

Mrs. R. T. Obee, another PTA member and mother of three boys, would like to see pre-primary school teaching extended to all schools and on a weekly basis instead of every other week. "My youngest son has really benefited by it. It breaks them in for school. I would also like to see a report card which clearly shows a class average and child average. You don't know where they stand now."

Reginald Berry, 1011 Pakington father of two youngsters, says there is too much recreation and not enough of the three Rs. "This changing of classrooms for each period is a waste of time . . . the kids don't get settled down before they have to move to another room."

Floyd Ashton, a Fisgard Street barber and father of four boys, felt that teachers haven't enough control over students. "The parents butt in too much. The parents haven't been trained, but the teachers are skilled at administering discipline, but have not the authortity," he said.

Harold Gifford, another barber and father of a boy and a girl, said there are too many children and not enough teachers. "I don't think the school hours are long enough, but when there is a teacher shortage it is a big problem."

Probation officer Allan Jones, father of four children, said "it is the lack of discipline in the schools that disturbs me . . . and that reflects the change in society generally. I would like to see firmer discipline in schools. One of the major problems is that youngsters leave school at about 15 years of age before they have acquired a particular skill. They are too young for apprenticeship and too young for a regular job. There should be more training in skills for them."

Commission hearings, which are open to the public, are scheduled to start at 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday at Oak Bay Junior High School.

Ferry Run Wins Monthly Subsidy

The provincial cabinet yesterday authorized continued operation of the Mill Bay - Brentwood ferry service by Coast Ferries Ltd. on a month-to-month basis at a subsidy of $2,500 a month.

The company was the only one to bid on the service and asked a $30,000-a-year subsidy, which was turned down by the cabinet in favor of the month-to-month plan.

Fire Bylaw Amendment

Saanich Allows School Addition

Saanich fire regulations for school buildings will be relaxed to allow construction of a wooden frame, second storey addition to Mount Douglas High School.

An amendment to a bylaw forcing the fireproofing of school buildings more than one storey high within Saanich's boundaries was agreed to last night by council following receipt of a letter from the board of trustees of School District 61.

The letter pointed out that in 1953 a single storey addiiton was built at the school and provision was made for a second storey to be added later.

John S. Taylor, Saanich building inspector, reported that the fireproofing bylaw was subsequently adopted by Saanich. He recommended that council agree to the school board's request to make an exception in this case. Council agreed.

Sing Same Version, Schools Directed

School officials are making another attempt to achieve uniformity in the singing of "O Canada" in Greater Victoria schools.

District superintendent John Gough told Greater Victoria school board that for "the last seven years at least" directives have been sent to local schools.

Another directive will go out giving the version of the chorus approved for use in local schools. It will use the words, "O Canada, glorious and free. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

Victoria Junior Chamber of Commerce last week backed the Weir version, "O Canada, glorious and free. We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

Mr. Gough said the department of education authorized the school version as far back as 1929. It was reaffirmed by the department in 1955.

Public Bars Seeking To Keep Club Hours

B.C. Innkeepers' Association yesterday asked Attorney-General Bonner to allow public drinking lounges to remain open the same hours as private clubs.

Private clubs are now allowed to stay open until 12.30 a.m., one hour later than public lounges.

A delegation from the association which met with Mr. Bonner and Recreation Minister Earle Westwood also asked that instead of the words "licensed premises" some other sign such as "cocktail bar" would be preferable. They said they sought something that would be more easily recognizable by U.S. tourists.

Around the Island

Health Care 'Gap' Worries Nanaimo

NANAIMO — Nanaimo's Council of Women will ask Mayor Pete Maffeo to take a hand in getting a public health officer installed in the central Vancouver Island area.

There has been no senior medical official appointed since Dr. E. W. R. Best left Dec. 31. His successor, Dr. C. McKenzie of Trail and Castlegar health units, cannot assume his new post in Nanaimo before March 1.

School trustee Mrs. Marion Ricker said that public health personnel were being lost to British Columbia because of comparatively low salary scales.

Dr. L. S. Anderson, of the north Island health unit, is "pinch-hitting" until Dr. McKenzie arrives. Nanaimo school board is not satisfied, however. Mrs. Ricker told the Council of Women that the board had asked that a local medical practitioner be appointed to the post pending arrival of Dr. McKenzie.

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Telephone subscribers linked to the Nanaimo exchange will be able to dial many of their long distance calls direct next year, without having to book them through a manual exchange.

Construction of a building to house the new system, first in the B.C. Telephone Co.'s network, is well advanced, a spokesman for the company said last night.

Areas to be included in the service, which will ultimately be extended throughout the company's exchanges, are Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum, Ladysmith and Chemainus.

Known as direct distance dialing, the system will not reach Vancouver until 1961.

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SHAWNIGAN LAKE—Officers elected during the annual meeting of the Vancouver Island AOTS district council here Friday were Ed Hess of Chemainus, president; Art Mann of Duncan, first vice-president; Al Windle of Nanaimo, second vice-president; and Bill Owens of Lake Cowichan, secretary-treasurer.

The installation ceremony was conducted by Don Morton of Duncan, John Carmichael of Victoria, and Rev. Tom MacMillan of Ladysmith.

NANAIMO — Sittings of the Chant commission on education here, originally scheduled for February, have been postponed until March, Nanaimo District Teachers' Association learned over the weekend.

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Directors of District "A" Farmers' Institutes, meeting in Nanaimo Saturday, passed a resolution "deploring the recent outbreak of racial discrimination in Victoria and other parts of B.C." President S. J. Hill, Cobble Hill, said he was thankful that so far no examples of this intolerance had been observed in rural or farming communities.

A letter from the B.C. attorney-general's department was considered to be a "brush-off." This was in connection with the stealing of a young bull and its being dragged to death behind a truck in the Colwood area.

At the annual meeting in September a strong resolution was sent to the attorney-general protesting that a light sentence of $35, such as was imposed on the two youths who stole and brutally killed this bull, was absolutely no deterrent to future thieves.

The letter from the department indicated that the matter would not be reconsidered. The farmers' group decided that the case would be pursued further.

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PARKSVILLE — Jack F. Noel was elected president of Mt. Arrowsmith branch of the Canadian Legion, succeeding Walter Avery, who resigned after two years in office.

Mr. Noel was elected by acclamation as were the following officers: First vice-president, W. G. Symons; second vice-president, J. E. Jennings; secretary-treasurer, C. W. Bell; sergeant-at-arms, W. E. Barnum; executive committee, Mr. Avery, Theo Botfield, T. C. Tryon, William Woodruff, Frank Cianflone and Reg Fouty.

C. H. Leffler was appointed as auditor and the Rev. John Stainer as branch padre.

W. A. Paterson presided for the election of officers.

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NANAIMO — John Woodward, former Vancouver city policeman, has set up a night patrol service in Nanaimo to protect downtown offices and stores against burglary. The service will start Feb. 1.

PARKSVILLE — Children's talent night, sponsored by Parksville Women's Institute will be held Feb. 27.

The entire program of entertainment will be made up of numbers by Parksville area children including insrumental and vocal numbers and ballet dancing. Mrs. J. J. Anderson is general convener for the event and Mrs. H. P. Clarke is in charge of refreshments.

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DUNCAN — For the second successive year, Lake Cowichan Kiwanis Club has won the lieutenant - governor's shield for the highest points of any club in the northwest division of Kiwanis International.

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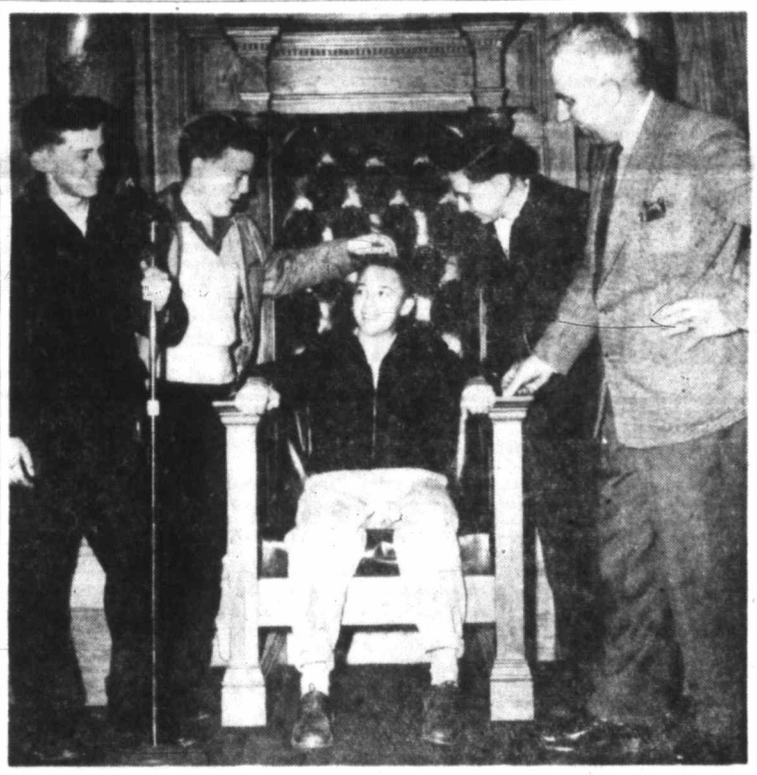
PORT ALBERNI—A total of 222 deepsea ships visited Port Alberni in 1958, an increase of 31 over the previous year. Although lumber shipments from local mills were down by 5,000 tons, cargo exported by sea increased by 70,371 tons.



Page Boys Ready for Session

Getting the feel of the Speaker's chair is Terry Mann, 14, who was one of 12 St. Louis College boys who yesterday were briefed on duties they will perform as page boys for the legislative assembly which opens Thursday. Others in picture are, left to right, Bill Comerford, 14, Norman Cox, 14, Kenneth Magee, 14, and sergeant-at-arms Denzil Ashby.—(Colonist photo)

On Castle Grounds

Building Plan 'Crime'

School Trustee William Gelling said last night "it would be a crime to put any administrative building" on the property of Craigdarroch Castle.

He was commenting on a recommendation to Greater Victoria school board that immediate steps be taken to implement plans — already approved by ratepayers — to build an administrative building to house overflow from board offices within the historic castle.

Trustee Walter Thomson, who last night made the recommendation on behalf of the education committee, said, "Unless we make a move now there will not be enough space for the staff in the future."

Trustee Kenneth Leeming, acting board chairman, said he favored proceeding with caution. "If the castle is to be turned into a museum piece at some future date, we should explore the possibility of obtaining space in any new city hall or of an entirely new administrative building," he said.

However, Trustee Richard Reeve pointed out the ratepayers had already approved $75,000 for construction of an administration building on the present school board property.

"I think we should go quietly ahead and mind our own business," he said.

Mr. Gelling said: "I don't believe we are faced with an emergency in the matter of office space.

"I think we can make better use of the space we have in this building. It would be a crime to put up any type of administrative building on this property.

"Anyway," he added, "this property is zoned for residential use and I don't believe we would be granted a building permit by the city."

Esquimalt to Sell Rockheights Lots

In response to a "tremendous demand for lots," Esquimalt council decided last night to put up for sale 36 lots in the Rockheights subdivision, Reeve A. C. Wurtele said.

The wooded section north of Old Esquimalt Road and west of Lampson Street takes in about one-third of the municipally-owned Rockheights area, he said.

Lots will range in price from $2,400 to $3,300 according to location, size and physical conditions, and will include installation of storm drains and laterals, a paved street, water mains and connections, street lights, sidewalks and "basic" clearing of old tree stumps.

Date of sale has not been announced, and it will be on a first-come, first-served basis, the reeve said. Only one lot will be sold per person and on terms of $100 down and cash within 30 days.

All lots will be for use as single-family dwellings, and a zoning restriction of 1,200 square feet is placed on each home.

"We've been deluged with people asking for lots," Mr. Wurtele said. "The last time we sold property, some people camped overnight at the municipal hall so they could get their choice."